

REMARKS

Applicants acknowledge receipt of the Examiner's Office Communication dated June 2, 2006. This communication presents a Requirement for Information under 37 C.F.R. 1.105. In particular, the Examiner requests (1) description and documentation for the industry known method of providing the single invoices as described in FCC N. Report 98-28; (2) the names and documentation of any known products employing the method of claim 1; (3) the names of any potential infringers practicing the invention as described in claim 1; and (4) the specific improvements of the subject matter in claim 1 over the disclosed prior art and indicate the specific elements in the claimed subject matter that provide these improvements.

Applicants attempted to obtain information responsive to requests (1) – (4) from the inventors of the instant application. Applicants searched for current contact information for each of the inventors of the instant application. However, Applicants could identify current contact information only for inventor Laracey. Applicants have left voice mail messages with inventor Laracey, but unfortunately inventor Laracey has not responded.

Oracle Corporation is the owner of the instant application by virtue of Oracle Corporation's purchase of Siebel Systems, Inc., which previously purchased eDocs, Inc., the original assignee of the instant application. None of the named inventors are employees of Oracle Corporation. Applicants have contacted Oracle Corporation in attempt to gather information responsive to requests (1) – (4) above. Additionally, Applicants have searched the Internet for posted documentation relevant to requests (1) – (4) above.

With respect to request (1) above, Applicants representative searched the Internet for any documentation related to FCC Report N. 98-28. The search yielded one document, which is included with the Information Disclosure Statement Accompanying this response. This document, however, does not appear to provide substantive information regarding industry known methods of providing the single invoices as described in the FCC Report N. 98-28. No other documents were found in the Internet search. Otherwise, Applicants respond to request (1) that such description and documentation is unknown to or is not readily available to the party or parties from which it was requested.

With respect to request (2) above, as noted above the instant application was originally assigned to Edocs, Inc., which in turn was purchased by Siebel Systems, Inc., which in turn was purchased by Oracle Corporation. Applicants have searched an Oracle Corporation website in an attempt to identify any products embodying the method of claim 1. Applicants representative submit that the Siebel ePayment Manager, Siebel eBilling Manager, and Siebel EasyPay may employ the method of claim 1. Documentation describing these three products are contained in the accompanying IDS. Otherwise, Applicants respond to request (2) that names and documentation is unknown to or is not readily available to the party or parties from which it was requested.

With respect to (3) above, Applicants respond that names of any potential infringers is unknown to or is not readily available to the party or parties from which it was requested.

With respect to request (4), embodiments of the present invention are directed to a bill consolidation software product, which offers the advantages of both the biller consolidation service and biller direct software approaches, without the associated disadvantages. Embodiments of the present invention provide a “biller centric” consolidation model that allows billers to serve up summary data to their customer on an aggregated site, but retain detailed data

about their customer's bill on their own site. Thus, in the "biller centric" consolidation model, the biller is not disintermediated because all of the data (i.e, the detailed data is not given to the aggregator. That is, the biller is able to maintain the customer relationship by being the only source for detailed billing information. In addition, embodiments of the present invention allow an aggregator to use an aggregator software product for a portal business.

An aggregator can, for example, (a) receive summary and/or detailed data from a billing entity; (b) present the summary information to an end user; (c) configure the product, such that the look and feel of the product can be changed as desired; and/or (d) present billing entity specific enrollment screens via the aggregation software. Otherwise, Applicants respond to request (4) that specific improvements is unknown to or is not readily available to the party or parties from which it was requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicant submit that all claims are now in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia, 22313-1450, on November 2, 2006.


Attorney for Applicants

11/2/06
Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,



Eric A. Stephenson
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 38,321
Telephone: (512) 439-5093
Facsimile: (512) 439-5099